GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:452
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2009
FAULTY ELECTRICITY METERS IN DELHI
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electricity meters of private power distribution companies in Delhi have several major faults as reported by the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the consumers have suffered huge financial losses during the last three years as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) : No, Sir.

(b) : None in view of answer above. However, the Public Grievances Cell, a body of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi, launched a drive to test electronic meter testing through an independent third party, Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) - a Government of India body in May 2007 and so far they have tested 1475 electronics meters brought by consumers on the presumption that these meters are running fast. Out of these, only 72 meters were found working beyond the permissible accuracy limit of Â± 2.5%. Thus the percentage of meters found faulty is around 5% and that too amongst the meters brought to the Public Grievances Cell on complete faith of the consumer about them running fast. The test is done at a subsidized cost of Rs.50/- per meter which is charged from the consumer and for each testing the Govt. of NCT of Delhi pay an additional amount of Rs.450/- to CPRI. There are around 30 lakh consumers in Delhi and only around 1500 consumers felt that their meter is running fast and in that group also 5% meters were running beyond the permissible accuracy limit. Therefore, the number of meters running beyond permissible accuracy limit can be taken to be within 0.01%.

When a meter is found to be fast beyond the limit of accuracy specified by the regulation, the licensee / consumer, as the case may be, replaces / rectifies the meter within 15 days of the testing. The licensee also adjusts / refunds the excess amount collected (if any) on account of the said defect based on the percentage error for a maximum period of six months or less based on the period / date of installation of the meter. If the meter is found to be slow beyond the limits of accuracy, the consumer pays the difference in a similar manner.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): None in view of the answers at (a) and (c) above.